

What is claimed is:

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from:
 - a) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - b) a naturally occurring polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least 90% identical to an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1,
 - c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and
 - d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
2. An isolated polypeptide of claim 1 having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
4. A composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 2 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
5. A method for using a polypeptide to screen a plurality of molecules in a sample to identify and purify an agonist, the method comprising:
 - a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with a plurality of molecules under conditions which allow specific binding,
 - b) detecting agonist activity in the sample; and
 - c) dissociating the polypeptide from the molecule.
6. An agonist produced by the method of claim 5.
7. A composition comprising the agonist of claim 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.
8. A method for using a polypeptide to screen a plurality of molecules in a sample to identify and purify an antagonist, the method comprising:
 - a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with the molecules under conditions which allow specific binding,
 - b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample; and
 - c) dissociating the polypeptide from the molecule.
9. An antagonist produced by the method of claim 8.
10. A composition comprising the antagonist of claim 9 and a pharmaceutically

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acceptable excipient.

11. A method of using a polypeptide to screen a plurality of compounds to identify a compound which specifically binds polypeptide, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with the compounds under conditions which allow specific binding, and
- b) detecting binding between the polypeptide and a compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds the polypeptide.

12. A method of using a polypeptide to screen a plurality of compounds to identify a compound which modulates the activity of the polypeptide, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with the compounds under conditions permissive for the activity of the polypeptide,
- b) assessing the activity of the polypeptide in the presence of the compound, and
- c) comparing the activity of the polypeptide in the presence of the compound with the activity of the polypeptide in the absence of the compound, wherein a change in the activity of the polypeptide in the presence of the compound is indicative of modulation of activity.

13. A compound which modulates the activity of the polypeptide produced by the method of claim 12.

14. A composition comprising the compound of claim 13 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

15. A method of using a polypeptide to prepare a polyclonal antibody comprising:

- a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide of claim 1 under conditions to elicit an antibody response;
- b) isolating antibodies from the animal; and
- c) screening the isolated antibodies with the polypeptide, thereby identifying a polyclonal antibody which specifically binds the polypeptide.

16. A polyclonal antibody produced by the method of claim 15.

17. A composition comprising an antibody of claim 16 and an acceptable excipient.

18. A method of using a polypeptide to make a monoclonal antibody, the method comprising:

- a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide of claim 1 under conditions to elicit an antibody response;

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b) isolating antibody producing cells from the animal;
c) fusing the antibody producing cells with immortalized cells to form monoclonal antibody-producing hybridoma cells;

d) culturing the hybridoma cells; and

5 e) isolating from culture the monoclonal antibody which binds specifically to a polypeptide.

19. A monoclonal antibody produced by the method of claim 18.

20. A composition comprising an antibody of claim 19 and an acceptable excipient.

21. A method for producing a polypeptide, the method comprising:

10 a) culturing a cell under conditions for expression of the polypeptide, wherein the cell is transformed with a recombinant polynucleotide, and the recombinant polynucleotide comprises a promoter sequence operably linked to a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide of claim 1, and

b) recovering the polypeptide so produced from culture.

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